



Animal Plant Health Inspection Service- Plant Protection and  
Quarantine's  
Safeguarding, Intervention, and Trade Compliance (SITC) program  
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# BOLO



(left to right -Giant African Land Snail GALS shell, Maternal GALS, below young GALS)

## Alert for trade in *Achatina* spp.,

## Giant African Land Snails

Giant African Land Snails, *Achatina achatina* (L.),  
*Achatina fulica* Bowdich, *Achatina marginata*,  
and other species in the family Achatinidae  
(Gastropoda),



There are several species of exotic (not of US Origin) land snails that USDA considers to be serious pests of plants and potential threat to the native environment. Some species of the giant African snail group have been found in pet stores or traded by exotic animal dealers. There are no existing permits to allow importation of the Giant African Land Snails into the USA and the origin of these snails may have been through inadvertent or illegal importation. The purpose of this BOLO is to assist with the awareness of this potential pest and in identifying these snails. It is believed by USDA scientists that if the snails were to become established in general environment, they could cause serious damage to plants, both in urban settings and in the natural landscape.

Additional information may be found at [www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ep/gas.html](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ep/gas.html)  
Should you have any concerns or questions about the Giant African Land Snail issue, please contact your local PPQ and or SITC office. Additionally you may contact SITC toll free at 800- 877-3835 or you may utilize the email address sitc\_mail@aphis.usda.gov.